

CDF NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



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Four CDF Firefighters Injured Fighting Pechanga Fire

Sacramento- Four firefighters from the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) were burned yesterday while fighting the Pechanga Fire in Riverside County. Three are listed in guarded condition, one in serious condition. The firefighters are assigned to Engine 2382 out of the CDF Nevada-Yuba-Placer Unit. They were performing structure protection in the Woodchuck Camp Ground, south of Highway 79 near Temecula.

Sudden erratic winds occurred when a thunderstorm cell passed over the fire causing flames to spread rapidly in several directions. The fire overran the engine and crew causing burn injuries to the firefighters and damaging the engine. All were transported to Arrowhead Regional Medical Center in Colton.

The injured firefighters are:

Fire Apparatus Engineer Andrew Schneller – Second degree burns over 22 percent of his body, including the face, neck and back. He is listed in serious condition and is expected to be hospitalized for five days.

Firefighter Jeremy Damon – Second and third degree burns over 14 percent of his body, including the face, arms and back. He is also experiencing slight respiratory distress. He is in guarded condition and expected to be hospitalized one to three days.

Firefighter Ehron Phillips – Second degree burns over 2-3 percent of his body, to the nose and face. He is in guarded condition and expected to be hospitalized one to three days.

Firefighter Chris Hayden – Second degree burns over 6 percent of his body, to the face and arms. He is in guarded condition and expected to be hospitalized one to three days.

The firefighters' families have been notified and CDF is making arrangements to escort family members to the hospital as soon as possible today. CDF Chief Deputy Director Woody Allshouse, and Fire Protection Deputy Director Glen Newman, left for Southern California first thing this morning and will visit the firefighters in the hospital today.

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